

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 5, Folder 5

January 19, 1940 -  
May 27, 1940

0717

CAS2/

U. S. S. NEW ORLEANS

Anchored in Aua Channel  
Lanai, T.H. 19 Jan. 1940

Dear Captain,

This letter is something that I have been trying to get around to for literally months but when it comes to correspondence, I'm the world's worst procrastinator. First of all I want to thank you for the very nice commendatory letter in re the CLARK's 1938-39 gunnery year, particularly in view of my very small contribution. Secondly I want to thank you for your kind thought of us at Christmas--we both appreciated it tremendously.

I hear that you all have produced an unbroken string of fine performances so far this year and it pleases me because my three and a half years there has given me a great fondness for that ship and all of her people.

For my own part -- I started very slowly during the first part of the season, but after a bad short range the additional experience seemed to help and this week we fired what I hope will prove to be the high for heavy cruisers night battle this year--so far nobody has even come close. We are also leading the league in machine gun practices, AABP "D", and have the second high score for AABP "B".

There are all sorts of rumors flying around about where the New Orleans will go next, but as we have been nominated as first choice for the cruisers AA gunnery school there is an excellent probability that we will stay here at least until October and if that works out we most likely won't go to the East Coast as rumored at present.

Mary Lou sends her best to you and we both want to be remembered to the Commodore and to Julie and all the old gang there on the CLARK.

Don't forget when you come out this spring to look us up-- we're at 412 Seaside Ave., just three blocks from the Royal.

Thanks again and hoping to see you all soon-

*Jerry.*

0718

*Personal File*

Jan. 30, 1940

Dear Commander Bates:

I am in receipt of your kind letter of Jan. 17th together with your letter of recommendation and thank you very much for both.

I am delighted that the Clark was marked excellent by Captain Mayfield, but then that is as it should be, at least since you took command anyway. The reputation of the Clark has even reached the east coast and it makes me feel proud too, that she is setting the pace for the fleet for upkeep, etc.

It is kind of you to say my services are missed. I do appreciate very much the experience I gained under your command and the many things I learned during your inspections of the Clark are beginning to bear fruit on the tug which I am to take over soon. I am looking forward with keen interest to my work on the tug.

At your suggestion I went to see Captain Ross and gave him your regards. Captain Ross told me you and he are great friends.

I rather miss the Clark and as I look back and remember some of the exciting days, I find myself a little homesick. I hope Balding is proving a good B.M. and that he has taken over to your entire satisfaction.

My wife at present is visiting her family in New York and is having a gay time going to concerts and seeing the best plays which she so missed while on the west coast.

Thank you again for your kindness and consideration and with best regards, I am

Respectfull yours,

*H. R. Calvin C.B.M.*

Commander R. W. Bates, U.S.N.  
Commanding U. S. S. Clark  
San Francisco, Calif.

0719

In reply address not the  
signer of this letter, but  
Commandant, U.S. Navy  
Yard, Charleston, S. C.

Refer to No:

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT  
UNITED STATES NAVY YARD  
CHARLESTON, S. C.

6 February 1940

Dear Dick:

I have intended for a long time to send you a note to thank you for your cards at Christmas time, but being extremely busy and having had to be away from here on inspection trips are the only excuses I can offer for this delay.

The Christmas menu of the Clark was excellent but if your crowd put away all that good food I fear for their girlish figures.

I noticed some months ago that your running mate Wiltsie had taken unto himself a family. If she is as nice as he is then I'm sure it is O.K.

We have been here now nearly two years and have thoroughly enjoyed it in all respects. The climate and the people are delightful, there is enough to keep one quite busy, and I have a home with many perquisites that I never had before or will again have. Every one who comes here wishes to be here again, for it has many advantages, and as far as I am concerned it is the very best station in the entire Naval Establishment.

This June I complete three years on shore and would normally go to sea, but as the big jobs seem to be sewed up I don't know what the answer will be. With only two years before retirement I would prefer to stay here instead of getting one of the subordinate fleet jobs, but if I have to go to sea I may ask for the Special Service Squadron where I will be entirely independent. However, it is a long time before next June, and I have no definite plans as yet.

Am sure you like the destroyers just as much as ever, and I hope that you are making a splendid record for yourself.

With all best wishes in which Mrs. Allen and Peach join me,  
I am,

Very sincerely,



Commander R.W. Bates, U.S. Navy,  
U.S.S. CLARK,  
San Diego, California

0720

2662 E St.  
San Diego, Calif.  
12 Feb., 1940

Comdr. R.W. Bates, USN.,  
U.S.S. Clark,  
San Diego, Calif.

Sir:-

For some time I have been making the Service both work and hobby. Since my enlisting in the Marine Corps I have accumulated a collection of Naval Postal markings and book match covers from the ships. This collection has been exhibited in Philadelphia and San Diego, where it has met with some success and I'm always desirous of adding to it.

Recently I heard that the CLARK has stocked some book matches for the ship and I would certainly like to get a few of them in unused condition. It is against Postal Regulations to send matches through the mails so if they are fixed like the enclosed sample it will be OK. The writer will certainly appreciate anything the Commander can do for me in this respect.

Respectfully,

*Walter A. Mensch*  
Walter A. Mensch,  
Corp., USMC.

*Mailed 2/25/40*

0721

THB:ew

HEADQUARTERS  
NINTH NAVAL DISTRICT  
GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS

March 1, 1940

My dear Commander Bates:

The Commandant at this Station has been informed by Captain Bidwell in the Detail Office, Bureau of Navigation, that I am slated to be your relief.

It seems the present plan is for my relief to arrive here on the 6th of June; that I be detached on the 11th of June and be in San Francisco on 20 June in order to take a ship for Pearl Harbor and relieve you at that place in time for you to return to the mainland, leaving Honolulu on 28 June. I pass this information on for what it is worth and thought perhaps you might be interested in these tentative plans. However, I expect them to materialize.

In connection with the CLARK, I find from such information as is available here that you will take part in the next Fleet Problem and upon completion will go to the Hawaiian area and join that detachment in a temporary status. Also, that the CLARK will return with Destroyer Division Six and commence overhaul at the Mare Island Navy Yard on 4 December, 1940.

I would appreciate it very much if you would let me know if the above seems to be the future itinerary of the CLARK and also if I am correct in assuming that the CLARK's home port is San Diego and her home yard is Mare Island. I am particularly desirous to know about this because, if it is so, it will mean that I will have to pay Mrs. Binford's expenses to and from Honolulu. I plan that she will go out there and I also expect to take my automobile out at the same time.

I am looking forward with pleasure to having such an attractive assignment and, also, I am looking forward to meeting you in the near future. In the event that any of these plans, as mentioned, are changed, I will be glad to keep you informed.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*Thos. H. Binford*  
THOS. H. BINFORD

Lieut. Comdr., U.S. Navy

Commander R. W. Bates, U.S.N.  
U.S.S. CLARK  
San Diego, California

0722

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0723

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WAIKIKI HEADQUARTERS  
ROYAL SERVICE STATION  
Opposite Royal Hawaiian Hotel  
PHONE 92008

March 16, 1940.

VIA CLIPPER AIR MAIL

Commander Richard Bates,  
U. S. S. Clark,  
c/o Postmaster,  
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Dickie:

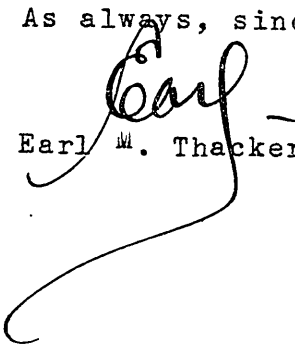
Your radiogram regarding Mrs. Anson Hard was addressed to "Earl Backer, Honolulu". I finally got the message but it was too late to contact Mrs. Hard before she left. Therefore, I was not able to deliver your message.

I am enclosing the message in order that you might give it to her to show that your intentions were good but your spelling was bad.

It was nice hearing from you, Dickie, and I will be looking forward to seeing you here with the fleet next month.

Dorothy joins me in fond Aloha to you.

As always, sincerely,

  
Earl M. Thacker

EMT:W  
encl.

0724





THE MUENCHINGER-KING  
BELLEVUE AVENUE  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

PETER MONGINI  
MANAGER

March 17, 1940

Comdr. R. W. Bates  
U.S. Clarke  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir:

We understand that you are coming with the next class at the Naval War College, and would like to interest you in accommodations for the duration of your stay in Newport, if you have not already done so.

We have several apartments and two houses, available, at reasonable rentals. During the past we have rented these apartments to several of the Officers; some of whom were Comdr. H. Zirolli, Dr. K. Walsh, the late Comdr. F. Maile, etc. At the present time we have Captain N. Nichols, and Captain W. Farber, who will be leaving with this year's class. One of our houses mentioned above, is now occupied by Captain. H. Gwynne, who also, leaves with the present class.

If you are interested, we are sure that you would be comfortable and that we could come to terms agreeable to us both. Should you care for further information, kindly write us here at the Hotel and we will be glad to answer any questions you might care to know.

Thanking you for giving this matter your attention, and looking forward to hearing from you sometime in the near future, we are.

Yours very truly,

*Peter Mongini*

*Dear Sir:*

PM:VP

*Comm. Thomas Keliber who is on the staff of the war college now was so kind to find me your address and he asked me to write and offer you the facilities of our hotel. If we can be of any service please do not hesitate to let us know.  
truly yours Peter Mongini*

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THE MUENCHINGER-KING  
BELLEVUE AVENUE  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

PETER MONGINI  
MANAGER

March 30, 1940

Commander R.W.Bates, U.S.N.  
U.S.S. Clark (361)  
San Diego, California

Dear Sir:

We thank you for your letter of March 27th, and would be delighted to accommodate you, for the duration of your stay in Newport.

We have an apartment, that was rented last year to Comdr. H. Zirgli, consisting of one bed-room, bath, sitting room, and porch. The rent for this apartment would be \$120.00 per month without meals. We quote special rates on meals for Navy Officers, breakfast from \$.50 to \$.75, and dinner from \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Should you decide to take this apartment, you maybe assured that we would do our very best to make your stay with us as comfortable as possible.

If you care for any other information, kindly let us know and we will be, only, to glad to help you.

Thanking you again, and looking forward to hearing from you, in the near future, we are.

Yours very truly,

*Peter Mongini*

PM:VP

0727

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WICKERSHAM 2-2000

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WILLIAM S. PALEY

May 21, 1940

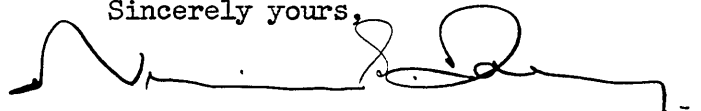
Dear Commander Bates:

I was very glad to hear from you and, I must say, a feeling of envy was induced when I learned that you are back in Hawaii. I remember the wonderful time I had there, and I am waiting for the day when I can get back.

If you will give your friend, who is now in Washington, a letter to me, or tell her to call my office for an appointment, I shall be glad to arrange for her to see the proper people in our organization. I have no idea whether or not there is any opening in our Education Department, but I am sure our people will be glad to talk to her.

I hope you will come in to see me when you get back East.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W. S. Paley', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Commander R. W. Bates  
Commanding, U.S.S. Clark (361)  
Pearl Harbor, T. H.

0728



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WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 27, 1940

Commander R. W. Bates  
U. S. S. Clark  
Pearl Harbor, T. H.

Dear Commander Bates:

In answer to your letter of May 20th, wish to advise that we can arrange delivery of a new Buick to you through the Buick dealer at Newport, Rhode Island.

It will be necessary to advise us the type of car you desire, also color and equipment, and whether you wish to pay cash for the balance or finance same. We would want three or four weeks notice before delivery so we can order a car for you from the factory.

We do not have any definite information, yet, as to when the '41 model will be available, but assume that it will be around the middle of October, as it was last year.

Trusting this information is satisfactory, and awaiting further instructions from you, we are

Very truly yours,

EMERSON & ORME

By: *David A. Parsons*  
David A. Parsons  
Sales Manager

DAP/lm

0729